

(c) The Centre has not been functioning since 20th March 1973.

(d) The Centre is a service facility Centre for Local artisans and is not intended for earning profits.

(e) Two applications had been received to utilise the facilities available in the Common Facility Centre, from the owners of two Saw Mills. However, Government have issued orders sanctioning the transfer of the Common Facility Centre to Messrs Hubli Technicians and Engineers Co-operative Society Ltd., Hubli.

Calling Attention to a matter of urgent Public Importance

re : mis-appropriation of funds in Rattihalli town Panchayat, Hirekerur Taluk.

SRI B. G. BANAKAR (Hirekerur)—I call the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Social Welfare to the misappropriation of funds in Rattihalli Town Panchayat, Hirekerur Taluk, Dharwar District.

SRI N. RACHAIAH (Minister for Rural Development and Social Welfare).— I wish to make the following Statement.

The Secretary, Rattihalli Town Panchayat, Hirekerur Taluk, Dharwar District, is in the habit of retaining heavy cash on hand without remitting the same to the local Karnataka Central Co-operative Bank of Treasury which is at a distance of 12 miles and it is contrary to Rule 9 of the Karnataka Panchayats and Accounts Rules, 1960.

The Assistant Controller, Local Audit Circle, Dharwar had on verification of the cash balance on 12th November 1975 reported that there was a cash balance of Rs. 4,695-25 after posting the cash book up to date. Further, it was noticed that as against the cash balance of Rs. 4,696-25 only an amount of Rs. 2,200-00 has been credited to the Bank on 13th November 1975 resulting in short remittance of Rs. 2,496-25. On verification of the cash book, the Secretary has subsequently credited the balance amount of Rs. 2,496-25.

A sum of Rs. 4,500 is withdrawn from the Treasury on 26th June 1975 for purchase of tube lights etc., The purchase rules are not followed by the Secretary and Administrator of Town Panchayat. According to the report received 12 tube lights have been purchased instead of 15 tube lights to which the money was actually drawn.

It is ascertained that the Town Panchayat has drawn a sum of Rs. 3,195 from 6/75 to 9/75 towards different expenses of the Town Panchayat but they have not followed proper rules and maintained

vouchers. It is stated that the Administrator, Secretary and Clerk were responsible for these mis-appropriations and bogus expenditure of Town Panchayats funds of Rattihalli, Hirekerur Taluk, Dharwar District.

Now, all the three officials i.e. the Administrator, Treasurer and Clerk have been placed under suspension. I have received telegram just now.

SRI B. G. BANAKAR.—I thank the Hon'ble Minister.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1976-77

Demands for Grants Demand Nos. 18, 19, 27, 54, 55 and 41

SRI H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works) Sir On the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move :

“that a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,06,99,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 18 “Public Works (Excluding Construction)”

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,60,93,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 19 “Buildings”

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,07,00,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 27 “Public Health Engineering.”

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73, 63, 000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 54 “Ports and Water Transport Services”.

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26, 83, 00,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 55 “Roads and Bridges”.

SRI S. B. NAGARAJ (Minister of State for Minor Irrigation).—On the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14, 82, 50,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1977 in respect of Demand No. 41 “Minor Irrigation”.